after the issue of orders on the proposal to provincialise the services of Road Inspectors, who supervise the work of gang mazdoors and other workers in the Highways Department. This general question will cover the question of permanent absorption of the Wynaad Highways Gang Workers.

Sale of ginger tonic in soda factories

* 2375 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM (on behalf of Sri D. Dasarathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that licences are issued for the sale of ginger tonic in soda factories;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the persons who consume the ginger tonic are charged under the Prohibition Act; and

(*c*) whether the ginger tonic has been chemically examined and certified to be free from any intoxicants?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) *to* (*c*) No, Sir.

Arrests of betting on New York Cotton Prices

* 2376 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of people arrested during 1953 and 1954 for betting on New York Cotton Prices in the City of Madras?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : 1953—2,920.

1954—4,569.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : சமீபத்தில் நிறைவேற்றப்பட்ட சட்டத்திற்குப் பிறகு கூட இன்று இந்த சூதாட்டம் ஏராளமான அளவிலே நடக்கிறது. ஆகவே இதைத் தடை செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் மேலும் தீவிரமான நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : இப்போதுதான் சட்டம் திருத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்தச் சட்டத்தின் கீழ் இன்னும் தீவிரமான நடவடிக்கை இனிமேல் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்படும்.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : கவர்ன்மெண்ட் எஸ்டேட் காம்பௌண்டுக் குள்ளேயே இந்த பஞ்சு மார்கெட் சூதாட்டம் நடப்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : கனம் அங்கத்தினருக்கு இது நன்றாகத் தெரியும் போலிருக்கிறது. விஷயம் சொன்னால் அதைப் பற்றி நடவடிக்கை உடனடியாக எடுக்கப்படும்.

Survey of raw materials in Pudukkottai Division

* 2377 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—whether a survey of raw materials in Pudukkottai division, Tiruchirappalli district, has been made for starting (1) small-scale industries and (2) large-scale industries?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir.

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SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the premerger Pudukottah State Government had made the required survey and found the required raw-materials available for starting a cement factory? If so will the Hon. Minister pursue those steps and start a cement factory for the dry area of Pudukottah?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I have no such information with me. But Government do propose to appoint some additional staff. It will take up the survey of raw material resources, so that we can plan a programme of industrial development, both small-scale and large-scale in the Pudukottah State.

Dysentery in Thilannur desam in Chirakkal taluk

* 2378 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that dysentery has affected the people and especially children in the Thilannur desom in Chelore amsom in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar; and

(b) if so, what relief measures the Government have taken to prevent the spread of the disease?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (a) & (b) No, Sir. One suspected case of dysentery, 8 mild attacks of diarrhoea and some attacks of measles occurred among children in the Thilanoor desom.

However, disinfection and chlorination of water sources, distribution of sulphaguanidine tablets and skim milk powder and anticipatory inoculation against cholera are the preventive measures taken in the village.

Hot wind in West Coast on 20th May 1955

* 2379 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a hot wind blew along the West Coast on 20th May 1955, which caused the withering of leaves of plants; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have investigated the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Investigation had revealed that the withering of leaves of plants was due to the highly saline water of the sea which was blown by the unusually strong winds and sprayed on the leaves of trees facing the sea and near the sea shore.